

September 20, 2001

Dear Friends:

As Governor of the State of Mississippi, I would like to extend the South's Warmest Welcome to the sponsors, participants, families and friends in attendance at this year's Roast-N-Boast Barbeque Cooking Contest. Welcome to the beautiful and friendly City of Columbus and the great State of Mississippi.

As one of the year's most anticipated events, I am sure this weekend will provide tremendous fun and excitement as well as scrumptious and mouth-watering food. Mississippi families will be joined by many visitors from neighboring states as they come together to enjoy this wonderful event.

Although the contest is a time of celebration, the hearts and minds of many will be with loved ones, due to the recent tragedies in New York, Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon. This year's contest will be dedicated to the memory of two incredible Mississippians who were victims in the attack. Lieutenant Colonel Jerry "D.D." Dickerson and James "Joe" Ferguson will both be remembered as great men who lived for justice. Please allow me this opportunity to commend the memory of these heroes, their selfless acts, dedication and commitment to their nation, community and state.

My thoughts and prayers go out to all during this difficult time. I know that D.D. and Joe will be remembered in the tears and the laughter of those who knew them. I hope that the joy they brought to friends and family will not be lost in death, but remembered by the living.

I know that this year's competition will be one of the best, celebrating not only the spirit of competition but the memory of loved ones. Best wishes for a successful cook off.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/kfg